

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A composition comprising the peptide:

Y-W-S-A₁-C-S-A₂-C-G-Z(SEQ ID NO: 9)

wherein Y and Z consist of: comprise:

(a) amino acid chains consisting of 0-6 amino acids; or

(b) chains of compounds which are not amino acids,

wherein A₁ and A₂ are amino acid sequences consisting of comprising 1 to 5 amino acids (~~SEQ ID NOS: 97-168~~) and further wherein the peptide is not selected from the group consisting of one of the following sequences:

-W-S-P-C-S-V-T-C-G- (SEQ ID NO:2),

-W-S-S-C-S-V-T-C-G- (SEQ ID NO:3), and

-W-S-Q-C-S-V-T-C-G- (SEQ ID NO:4).

2. (Currently amended) The composition according to claim 1, wherein said A₁ is Pro or -X₁-W-X₂-X₃-(SEQ ID NO:5), ~~, X₁, X₂, and X₃ being chosen, independently of each other, from G, S and C, denoted SEQ ID NOS:50-59.~~

3. (Currently amended) The composition according to claim 2, wherein said A₁ is -X₁-W-S-X₃-(SEQ ID NO:6), ~~, denoted SEQ ID NOS:6 and SEQ ID NOS:60-64.~~

4. (Currently amended) The composition according to claim 1, wherein said A₂ is selected from the group consisting of -R-S-, -V-S-, and -V-T-, ~~, denoted SEQ ID NOS:65-88.~~

5. (Currently amended) The composition according to claim 3, wherein said peptide is ~~the following amino acid sequence:~~ -W-S-X₁-W-S-X₃-C-S- A₂-C-G- (SEQ ID NO:7), ~~, denoted SEQ ID NOS:7 and SEQ ID NOS:89-96, wherein, X₁ and X₃ are independently selected from G, S and C.~~

6. (Currently amended) The composition according to claim 4, wherein said peptide is ~~the following amino acid sequence:~~

-W-S-G-W-S-S-C-S-R-S-C-G- (SEQ ID NO:8).

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a peptide according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

9 – 12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) An additive for culturing nerve cells, comprising a peptide according to claim 1.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) A peptide consisting of having the following amino acid sequence:

-W-S-G-W-S-S-C-S-R-S-C-G- (SEQ ID NO:8).

17. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a peptide according to claim 16 and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

18. (Canceled)

19 – 21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously presented) An additive for culturing nerve cells, comprising a peptide according to claim 16.

23. (Canceled)

24. (New) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the peptide is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 97-168.

25. (New) A composition according to claim 2, wherein the peptide is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 50-59.

26. (New) A composition according to claim 3, wherein the peptide is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 60-64.

27. (New) A composition according to claim 4, wherein the peptide is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 65-88.

28. (New) A composition according to claim 5, wherein the peptide is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 89-96.